



# Utah Click It or Ticket Campaign Overview—2013

Click It or Ticket is a nationwide enforcement campaign designed to increase seatbelt use and reduce highway fatalities. The mobilization is conducted annually by the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA) in conjunction with law enforcement agencies, state highway safety offices, and traffic safety advocates. The campaign encourages all motorists to always buckle up—every time, day and night.

## WHY IS THIS CAMPAIGN HAPPENING?

With the invention of the automobile, motor vehicle crashes have been one of the leading causes of death among American's for many decades. To help combat this health and safety concern, the seatbelt was designed and has been credited with saving a million lives since its inception more than 50 years ago. Since that time, efforts have been underway to encourage the use of safety restraints, including belts, child car seats, and airbags. It has always been, and continues to be, the most important thing people can do when they ride in a motor vehicle – buckle up.

Seatbelts reduce the risk of injury and death by about 70 percent when used correctly, according to the NHTSA. In fact, in 2011, unbuckled motorists were 40 times more likely to die than buckled motorists involved in crashes on Utah's roadways.

When Utah's secondary seatbelt law passed in 1986, only 18 percent of motorists buckled up. Over the past 25 years, the national safety belt use rate has climbed to 86 percent and Utah's rate has increased to 81.9 percent in 2012. Still, motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death for people in Utah and across the United States. Further impact is felt when estimating Utah's economic loss due to crashes, which exceeds approximately \$1.6 billion each year.

## WHAT IS THE LAW?

Utah's Safety Belt Use Law states that drivers and passengers must wear a seatbelt and that children up to age 8 must be properly restrained in a child car seat or booster seat. The law provides for primary enforcement for individuals up to 19 years of age. For a person age 19 or older, enforcement by an officer can be only as a secondary action when the person has been detained for another offense. Individuals not buckled up are breaking the law and officers will be out in force citing unrestrained drivers and passengers during the mobilization.

## WHO STILL ISN'T BUCKLING UP?

Nearly 500,000 Utah motorists still fail to regularly wear their seatbelts. Research has shown that many people who continue to ride unprotected are risk takers, young, male, rural and nighttime motorists, drivers and passengers of pickup trucks, or are child passengers in vehicles driven by an unbuckled adult.

## WHAT IS THE CAMPAIGN'S GOAL?

Changing behaviors can be difficult but safety advocates across the nation are trying to do just that. Utah's law enforcement community is on board and will be working extra seat belt-focused patrols, supported with federal grant funds, May 20—June 2, 2013. The goal of the campaign is not to give out tickets, but rather to save lives.